

I claim:

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1. A keyboard for a computer comprising:  
a housing;  
a plurality of keys disposed within the housing;  
a communications link disposed within the housing to communicatively couple the keyboard to the computer; and,  
a connector disposed within the housing and receptive to a corresponding connector of a device such that the device communicates with the computer over the communications link when the connectors are coupled.
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2. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the housing has a plurality of surfaces defining a cradle cavity into which the connector is disposed, the cradle cavity shaped so that the device fits into the cavity such that at least one surface of the device is exposed.
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3. The keyboard of claim 2, wherein the cradle cavity is shaped so that the device fits into the cavity such that at least a front surface of the device is exposed.
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4. The keyboard of claim 2, wherein the cradle cavity is shaped so that the device fits into the cavity such that at least a top surface of the device is exposed.

5. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the housing has an end surface into which the connector is disposed, the connector of the device coupling the connector of the housing such that at least one of a top surface and a bottom surface of the device is flush with a corresponding surface of the housing.

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6. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the communications link comprises at least a cable.

7. The keyboard of claim 6, wherein the cable is a Universal Serial Bus (USB)-compatible cable.

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8. The keyboard of claim 6, wherein the communications link also comprises at least a radio frequency (RF) transceiver.

9. The keyboard of claim 1, further comprising a recharger operatively coupled to the connector of the keyboard to recharge a battery of the device when the connectors are coupled.

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10. The keyboard of claim 1, further comprising a power source disposed within the housing.

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11. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the device is a personal digital assistant (PDA) device operable in a docking mode when the connectors are coupled and operable in a stand-alone mode when the connectors are uncoupled.

5 12. The keyboard of claim 11, wherein the personal digital assistant device is a U.S. Robotics Pilot.

10 13. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the device communicates with the computer in a docking mode when the connectors are coupled and in a stand-alone mode via a wireless transceiver of the device communicating with a corresponding wireless transceiver of the computer.

15 14. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the device is a touch screen device having at least one changeable virtual key.

15. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the device includes a power source.

20 16. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the device is selected from the group of devices comprising a remote control for a television, a digital video disc (DVD) player, a compact disc (CD) player, and a telephone handset.

17. A keyboard for a computer comprising:  
a housing;  
a plurality of keys disposed within the housing;  
a communications link disposed within the housing to communicatively couple  
5 the keyboard to the computer; and,

a connector disposed within the housing and receptive to a corresponding  
connector of a personal digital assistant (PDA) device such that the PDA device  
communicates with the computer over the communications link when the connectors are  
coupled.

18. The keyboard of claim 17, wherein the housing has a plurality of surfaces defining  
a cradle cavity into which the connector is disposed, the cradle cavity shaped so that the  
PDA device fits into the cavity such that at least one surface of the device is exposed.

19. The keyboard of claim 17, wherein the PDA device is a U.S. Robotics Pilot.

20. A keyboard for a computer comprising:  
a housing;  
a plurality of keys disposed within the housing;  
a communications link disposed within the housing to communicatively couple  
20 the keyboard to the computer; and,  
a connector disposed within the housing and receptive to a corresponding

connector of a device having a touch screen such that the device communicates with the computer over the communications link when the connectors are coupled.

5 21. The keyboard of claim 20, wherein the housing has an end surface into which the connector is disposed, the connector of the device coupling the connector of the housing such that at least one of a top surface and a bottom surface of the device is flush with a corresponding surface of the housing.

10 22. A computerized system comprising:  
a computer having at least a processor, a memory and a first wireless transceiver;  
a device having a second wireless transceiver communicatively coupling the device to the computer in a stand-alone mode; and,  
a keyboard having a plurality of keys, a communications link communicatively coupling the keyboard to the computer, and a connection removably coupling the device  
15 to the keyboard in a docking mode,  
wherein the device communicates with the computer over the communications link when in the docking mode and via the first and the second wireless transceivers when in the stand-alone mode.

20 23. The computerized system of claim 22, wherein the keyboard includes a recharger to recharge a battery of the device when in the docking mode.

24. A device operable in a docking mode and in a stand-alone mode comprising:  
a housing;  
a touch screen disposed within the housing;  
a controller to display at least one changeable virtual key on the touch screen; and,  
a connector operatively coupled to the controller to removably couple the device  
to a computer peripheral in the docking mode.

25. The device of claim 24, further comprising a wireless transceiver to  
communicatively couple the device to a computer operatively coupled to the computer  
peripheral in the stand-alone mode.

26. The device of claim 24, wherein the controller displays the at least one changeable  
virtual key on the touch screen pursuant to instructions received from the computer, via  
the wireless transceiver in the stand-alone mode and through the computer peripheral in  
the docking mode.

27. The device of claim 24, wherein the computer peripheral is a computer keyboard.

28. The device of claim 24, wherein the device further includes a rechargeable battery  
capable of being recharged in the docking mode by a corresponding recharger of the  
computer peripheral.